

Notes on the Genus ACTIDIUM; by the Rev. A. MATTHEWS,
M.A.

Some of the rarest and most interesting Trichopterygidæ belong to the genus *Actidium*. Although cosmopolitan in their range, and much varied in their quaint and elegant forms, they bear evident and unmistakable marks of affinity to each other. In 1872, when the "*Trichopterygia Illustrata*" was published, only three species were known, and all these were European; since that time five others have been discovered, America, Australasia, and Oceania or Polynesia, have contributed their own representatives; from Asia alone no species has been hitherto received, though doubtless some might be found. In consequence of this large increase in the number of the species, I think that it will be useful to collect together the scattered members of the genus, and to transcribe from various publications in which they are recorded a few distinctive characters; so that they may be the more easily recognized.

Actidium Boudierii, (Trichop. Illustr. p. 89), the first discovered, was described by M. Allibert from specimens taken on the shores of the Lake of Geneva. Although rare, it has occurred in other parts of Europe, but hitherto not on British soil. It may easily be distinguished from all its congeners except *A. Crotchianum*, by its ovate form, pitchy-black colour, and black legs and antennæ.

Actidium Crotchianum, (Cist. Ent. ii, p. 168), in shape and colour resembles the foregoing species, but may be known by its larger size and inflated elytra. Several specimens of this insect were found by my lamented friend, whose name it bears, in British Columbia, but I regret to say that he left no note of the exact locality.

Actidium politum, (Cist. Ent. ii, p. 168), was also found by Mr. Crotch, in British Columbia, and left without any further

note. It belongs to the same ovate section of the genus as the two preceding species, from which its minute size and shining impunctate surface readily distinguish it.

Actidium Sharpianum, (Cist. Ent. iii, p. 39, Pl. II, f. 2); this remarkable species was lately found in the Sandwich Islands, by the Rev. T. Blackburn, on the margin of a stream near Honolulu. In form and colour it resembles the four preceding species more than any of the rest, and may be known by its narrow elongate form, and abruptly truncate apex of the elytra.

Actidium concolor, (Trichop. Illustr. p. 89), was first found by Dr. Sharp and Mr. Crotch, on the margin of a stream in Northumberland, and subsequently in a similar locality near Dumfries, by Dr. Sharp; a single example taken in Italy has also been sent to me by H. E. v. Bruck. *A. concolor* forms a link between the two sections of this genus, *i.e.*, those whose surface is shining and more or less glabrous, and those which are clothed with pubescence; from the former it differs in its linear cylindric form, and from the latter in its shining and naked surface.

Actidium Fowlerianum, n. sp. Several specimens of this very small species have been sent by Mr. Champion, from Guatemala, and as they are in the hands of Messrs. Godman and Salvin, I will only say that they differ from all the other species in their minute size (·37–·50 mm.), attenuated elytra, and silver-grey colour.

Actidium lineare, (Cist. Ent. i, p. 296). This species found in some numbers by Mr. Dawson, in New Zealand, may be known by its elongate linear form, longer pubescence, and brown colour. It resembles *A. coarctatum*, more than any of the rest, but differs from that species in its more truly linear form, and especially in the sculpture of the head and thorax.

Actidium coarctatum, (Trichop. Illustr. p. 89), appears to be distributed throughout the whole of Europe and the African shore of the Mediterranean sea. I have received specimens from various parts of England, and also from Ireland, Sweden, Italy, the South of France, and Egypt. Its linear form, long pubescence, and deeply punctured head and thorax, readily distinguish *A. coarctatum* from its congeners.

As a rule the species of *Actidium* frequent exclusively the margins of lakes and rivers, or the sea shore; but a notable exception to this rule has sometimes occurred in the case of *A. coarctatum*; many years ago Mr. Haliday stated in the Dublin Nat. Hist. Review, that he had met with this insect in a farmyard somewhere in Ireland; and the fact that it occasionally frequents such localities has been thoroughly established by Mr. Fowler, who for the last two years has taken several examples from a hotbed near the City of Gloucester. In all other instances it has been found on the sea shore; in England by Mr. Crotch on the Chesil-bank, and on the Coast of Essex by Mr. Champion.
